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A PRISONER IN PARADISE

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THE CIA safehouse that Soviet re-defector Vitaly Yurchenko inhabited and reportedly considered "a prison" would be a paradise to most Americans.

When Yurchenko defected back to Moscow, he fled from a sprawling, white-painted home in Virginia's "hunt country" that perfectly embodies the American dream of wealth, privilege and privacy.

The house also is the

ideal CIA retreat, supplying both luxury and total seclusion.

The CIA's selection of this spot to hide Yurchenko was a perfect success.

Yurchenko's neighbors in the Coventry development — a "500-acre master-plan private community of 5- to 12-acre estate homesites," in Morrisville, Va. — say they never even suspected Lot Number 20 was the CIA-owned home of a closely guarded Soviet defector.